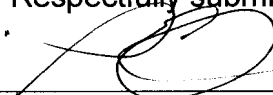


Applicants have now cancelled claims 1-17 and 40-53, and amended the remaining claims to clarify that these remaining claims do relate to a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1. The technical feature linking the remaining groups of claims is the method of measuring activity of an NAD<sup>+</sup> utilizing enzyme, as specified in claim 18. Applicants assert that claim 18, and therefore the technical feature linking the remaining claims, is novel. Furthermore, this technical feature links all the claims currently present in the application, since all the claims directly or indirectly depend from claim 18. Accordingly, the restriction requirement is not longer proper and should be withdrawn. Such action is respectfully requested.

Applicants submit that the application is ready for examination. Early notice of such action is earnestly solicited.

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Respectfully submitted,



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